



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 July 1967



50X1

Hong Kong

50X1

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
8 JULY 1967

1. Congo

Mobutu's troops regained control of Bukavu yesterday. The Congolese apparently have also retaken Kisangani (Stanleyville), and at least one plane-load of mercenaries from there has reached Rhodesia.

At Lubumbashi (Elisabethville), nine Europeans were bayoneted by Congolese troops on Thursday; there have been several other reports of incidents. This kind of violence could subside as quickly as it began, but it could also get worse and bring on a European exodus.

2. Nigeria

Federal Chief Gowon has ordered his troops to start the long-awaited invasion of the Eastern region. Lagos has already announced the capture of two important towns inside the Eastern border, but this is anything but firm.

US citizens still in the border area--dependents were evacuated last month--are being sent out. There is evidently no particular danger for US personnel at the present time.

3. Israel

Prime Minister Eshkol openly criticized Defense Minister Dayan yesterday and this may well lead to Dayan's resignation and a more flexible Israeli position on terms for a settlement.

Dayan is unlikely to remain silent in the face of Eshkol's statement that the defense minister's "self praise is not honorable." Dayan's political strength, however, is not up to his popularity. He may therefore choose to withdraw for now, but he will remain a strong contender for eventual leadership of Eshkol's Mapai party and the government.

50X1

4. North Vietnam

50X1

* * * * *

Hanoi announced yesterday that Nguyen Chi Thanh--a four-star general and a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo--is dead of a heart attack. Thanh was the Viet Cong commander-in-chief and a noted hardliner in the Hanoi leadership.

5. Communist China

50X1

6. Morocco

King Hassan is giving every indication that he intends to preserve his country's pro-Western stance despite mounting criticism of his regime. His choice of a new premier on Thursday--a man friendly to the US--is the most recent case in point. All in all, Hassan is clearly stepping up to his responsibilities.

50X1

7. South Africa

The closure of the Suez Canal has given South Africa an opportunity to demonstrate its importance to the West. A substantial number of ships which formerly transited the Canal are now using the route around Africa, and South Africa's ports are the only ones large enough to bunker and provision them.

The South Africans indeed are boasting about their dependability in contrast to many Afro-Asian countries in the Mid-East crisis. Although this will probably not change South Africa's relations with its old enemies, it will undoubtedly make the major industrialized countries even more reluctant to support demands for sanctions against the South Africans.

Top Secret